in a long rectangle. That of the leader, where I stayed for 24 hours, was 12 by five meters and was divided into three rooms approximately equal in size. At one end, food for the men and food for the pigs was cooked successively in an enormous cast basin resting on a hearth formed by a hollowed-out cube of earth left standing on the platform when the foundations were dug. In the middle was a common room where camp beds were spread out and where the surface of a fragile altar decorated with paper sapeks bore cups of alcohol and sticks of incense (1). Finally, a room at the other end without direct communica-

Mi 342
Mi [354]
Mi [778]

1. Next to it, four chicken feathers glued to a sheet of paper which was spotted with blood reminded the inhabitants of the periodical sacrifice to the genii of the house.

tion with the outside was provided with a large camp bed and contained a well closed-off chamber where wooden chests held the family wealth -- ceremonial garments, jewelry and salt reserves. In the /234/ kitchen, an alcove served as an extra bedroom. The interior plan may vary greatly in detail, as may be judged by a plan taken from a neighboring hamlet (Fig. 23) (1). I also saw a much smaller

1. However, the house described above would be the typical Mèo house, according to Father Savina, (114), p. 190.

house -- five by three meters -- which contained only two rooms.

Mi 445

The furnishings may be distinguished from Man furnishings by the presence of numerous wooden objects -- troughs, buckets and large spoons and bowls which have been very well made by the Mèo themselves. The foot pestle is outside under the overhang of the roof, or inside like the mill for crushing maize, an assembly of two large round stones, one of which turns on top of the other moved by an eccentric lever (2). Water is brought near the house by a system of

Mi 401
Mi 312

2. This instrument seems to be peculiar to the Mèo. However Colonel Bonifacy found it among Lan Tien Man also (43), p. 178).

bamboo canals often several hundred meters long. Next to the dwelling, a rectangular granary holds the reserves of paddy and maize which would not fit under the rafters, and the pigs are fattened in long, raised

Mi 343
Mi 231